



WIKI

RESOURCES

7 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WIKIS

Educause

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This is only one title of a series that includes Podcasting, Blogs, Creative Commons, and many more applications that provide quick and easy-to-understand overviews of these technologies, and related practices that have proved to have a positive impact on teaching and learning.

WIDE OPEN SPACES: WIKIS READY OR NOT

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www.educause.edu/irl/library/pdf/erm0452.pdf

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The Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) program is a proven job-embedded professional learning service that enhances teaching practice and improves student achievement. This is achieved through a research-based approach to building collaborative learning communities, implementing blended learning environments for classrooms, schools and districts, using interactive web-based learning resources, developing sustainable inter-jurisdictional and inter-institutional collaboration and understanding institutional change. For more information about ABEL, please visit www.abelearn.ca.

THE BASICS

WIKIS IN EDUCATION

Because pages can be added and edited easily, students are instantly attracted to wikis. As a teacher, you will benefit greatly from the built-in tracking ability. The history aids in feedback and grading.

WHAT IS A WIKI?

Like blogs, wikis are web publishing tools. While blogs impose some structure through the chronological order of the postings, a wiki has no pre-defined structure. This makes wikis ideal for collaborative writing or group projects involving multimedia.

Wikis allow asynchronous communication and group collaboration across the Internet. Users are authors, producers, and editors all at once as the content uploaded on wikies can include sounds, movies, and pictures. Thus, wikis are simple tools that create multimedia presentations and simple digital stories.

Although they first appeared in the mid-1990s, wikis have now been adapted as an instructional technology and are being used for many collaborative activities.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Take a look at our demonstration wiki at wikis.abel.yorku.ca/abel/demo. Visit the link and explore the possibilities. See if a wiki is right for you!

GETTING STARTED

To request a wiki space, login to the ABEL Community at www.abelearn.ca and click on **Tools**. Launch **ABEL Tools** and select **Collaboration**. From here choose **Wiki** and then **Request Account**. Please fill out the questions on the form and then **Submit** your answers. Your wiki will be created and you will be contacted with further information. If you have any questions about your existing wiki, contact us at abelhelp@yorku.ca.

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